

Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!
Over my heart, in the days that are flown,
No love like mother-love ever has shone;
No other worship abides and endures—
Faithful, unselfish, and patient like yours:
None like a mother can charm away pain
From the sick soul and the world-weary
brain.

Slumber's soft calms o'er my heavy lids
creep;—

Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!
Mother, dear Mother, the years have been
long

Since I last listened your lullaby song:
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream.
Clasped to your heart in a loving embrace,
With your light lashes just sweeping my
face,

Never hereafter to wake or to weep;—

Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

I will yield the floor and I suggest
the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to
call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unan-
imous consent the order for the
quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without
objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unan-
imous consent the Senate now proceed
to a period of morning business, with
Senators permitted to speak therein
for a period not to exceed 5 minutes
each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without
objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF IDABEL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, it is an
honor for me to recognize the 100th An-
niversary of the City of Idabel, Okla-
homa.

Idabel is the county seat of
McCurtain County, located in the
Southeast corner of Oklahoma. The
scenic rivers and wilderness that sur-
round Idabel rival the beauty of any re-
gion in the United States.

Idabel has a rich cultural history.
For 75 years, from the 1830s into the
twentieth century, Idabel was under
the sovereignty of the Choctaw Tribe.
Following their removal from Mis-
sissippi, the Choctaws occupied and
ruled over the land that we today know
as Idabel.

In 1902, before Oklahoma even be-
came a state, the town of Purnell was
incorporated along a rail line. It was
named after Isaac Purnell, a railroad
official at the time. This name did not
last long, however. Our very own
United States Postal Service rejected
the town's name because it was too
similar to that of another Oklahoma
town Purcell. For two years, this in-
corporated town battled possible names
around, names like Mitchell and
Hoyopa, until finally settling on the
name "Idabel"—a combination of the
first names of Isaac Purnell's daugh-
ters.

While rich in its history and in the
beauty of its surroundings, the great-
est part of Idabel are the people who
live there from the people who set up
shop in that small trade village in the
early twentieth century to the present
day students, the Idabel Warriors, who
are the future of this great town.

The people of Idabel are devoted to
God, to their country, and to their
families. I am proud to honor their cen-
tennial, and am privileged to serve as
their representative here in the U.S.
Senate. May their next one hundred
years be as fruitful as the first.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NURSES' WEEK

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, this
week commemorates the contributions
of the nursing profession to patients
and health care and the dedication of
those individuals who have chosen
nursing. Yet in all the years that we
have acknowledged how much nurses
mean to the delivery of health care and
our quality of life, we have not done
enough to ensure the viability of nurs-
ing as a profession. The 2001 American
Nurses Association (ANA) National
Survey revealed that 715 hospitals had
126,000 openings for nursing positions
and an 11 percent vacancy rate. Nurs-
ing schools across the country report
that enrollment has significantly de-
creased and the ANA also projects that
65 percent of present nurses will retire
within this decade. These statistics sig-
nal a nursing crisis and that means a
health care crisis for this country.

At both the June 14, 2001, Senate Vet-
erans' Affairs Committee hearing on
the looming nursing shortage and the
June 27, 2001, Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee hearing on the federal
government's role in retaining nurses
for delivery of federally funded health
care services, I emphasized an alarm-
ing statistic that the federal health
sector, employing approximately 45,000
nurses, may be the hardest hit in the
near future with an estimated 47 per-
cent of its nursing workforce eligible
for retirement by the year 2004. Cur-
rent and anticipated nursing vacancies
in all health care settings are attrib-
uted in part to worsening work place
conditions with mandatory overtime
and increasing patient care workloads.

I believe today we are facing a wide-
spread and complex challenge with this
nursing shortage and there are no
quick fixes. Congress has passed some
important measures to help nurses to
continue to take safe and effective care
of their patients and to assist health
care facilities to recruit and retain
needed nurses. Some of these impor-
tant measures will help recruit new
nurses and assist with the cost of edu-
cation, like the Nurse Reinvestment
Act and S. 937 which I authored and
which will now permit the transfer of
entitlement to educational assistance
under the Montgomery GI Bill by mem-

bers of the Armed Forces thus allowing
spouses and children of eligible service
members to use transferred GI bill as-
sistance for undergraduate or graduate
nursing education.

Additionally, the VA Nurse Recruit-
ment and Retention Enhancement Act
was signed into law this year and will
help to alleviate the anticipated VA
nursing shortage by addressing work-
ing conditions, implementing a Nurse
Cadet Program to encourage high
school students to pursue nursing ca-
reers as well as other education incen-
tives. I was pleased to have played a
major role in development and passing
this measure as well.

Congress, Federal and State agencies,
private and public health care organi-
zations are all actively working to de-
velop solutions to the looming nursing
shortage. We want nurses to know that
they do have allies who will work with
them to find solutions.

To further demonstrate our support
of nurses, I am also proposing that the
U.S. Postal Service issue a nursing
stamp to say, "Thank you for being a
Nurse." This stamp will help to raise
public awareness of the nursing crisis
and show our support of the nursing
profession.

I ask my colleagues to join with me
in a long-term commitment to support
the nursing profession. I want to say a
special "thank you" to the nurses who
were there for me when I was injured in
Vietnam. These nurses gave me care
and hope. I do not care to think of the
future of health care without these
dedicated and knowledgeable nurses. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the
House of Representatives, delivered by
Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-
nounced that the Speaker has signed
the following enrolled bill:

S. 378. An act to redesignate the Federal
building located at 3348 South Kedzie Ave-
nue, in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Paul Simon
Chicago Jobs Corps Center."

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memo-
rials were laid before the Senate and
were referred or ordered to lie on the
table as indicated:

POM-232. An engrossed resolution adopted
by the Assembly of the State of Wisconsin
relative to the Upper Mississippi and Illinois
Rivers' Inland Waterways Transportation
System; to the Committee on Environment
and Public Works.

2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 56

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin borders or
contains over 360 miles of the upper Mis-
sissippi River and 11 navigation locks and
dams along those borders; and

Whereas, many of Wisconsin's locks and
dams are more than 60 years old and only 600
feet long, making them unable to accommo-
date modern barge tows of 1,200 feet long,
nearly tripling locking times and causing
lengthy delays and ultimately increasing
shipping costs; and